

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system comprising first and second hose
2 lengths adapted to be detachably coupled together, and end-sealed thus to be inflatable, and
3 including an inflation valve connected to at ~~lest~~ least one of the first and second hose lengths.

1 2. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the
2 first and second hose lengths has one end flattened and sealed and, at an opposed end, has one part
3 of a two-part coupling such that the two hose lengths may be coupled together with or without
4 interposition of one or more additional lengths of standard hose.

1 3. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 1 ~~for Claim 2~~,
2 wherein the inflation valve is mounted in the wall of one of the hose lengths.

1 4. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 2, wherein the or each
2 flattened and sealed end includes a superimposed rigid plate and includes means for attachment
3 thereto of a line or shackle.

1 5. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 2 ~~for claim 4~~,
2 wherein the or each flattened end is sealed with a bonding agent and is vulcanised, with a pair of
3 opposed plates bolted together through the flattened vulcanised hose end.

1 6. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 2, wherein the or each
2 coupling part includes a valve to enable the associated hose length to be sealed after inflation.

1 7. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 3, wherein the inflation valve
2 comprises an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve threadedly connected together, the inner sleeve

3 having a spigot which passes through an aperture in the hose wall, and a clamping washer being
4 interposed between the inner and outer sleeves and having annular protrusions which serve to trap
5 the wall of the hose between the inner and outer sleeves.

1 8. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 7, including an elbow
2 connector threadedly engaged within the bore of the inner sleeve and including a one-way pressure
3 relief valve.

1 9. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to ~~{any preceding claim}~~
2 claim 1, incorporating an angular elbow connector attachable between the respective hose lengths
3 whereby the system may be assembled to form an angular or curved boom.

1 10. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to [any preceding claim]
2 claim 1, including an inflation unit comprising a pressure regulator, a pressure relief valve and
3 selectable valve means to permit deflation of the hose system.

1 11. (Original) An inflation unit according to Claim 9, wherein the pressure regulator is
2 adapted to inflate the hose system to a pressure in the range 2 to 3.5 bar.

1 12. (Original) A method of producing a floatable boom comprising the steps of providing
2 first and second hose lengths each having one end sealed, detachably coupling the hose lengths
3 together and inflating the coupled hose lengths to a pressure sufficient for them to become rigid
4 such that they may be pushed from one end across the surface of water without submerging.

1 13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the sealed end of at least one of
2 the hose lengths is flattened to become chisel-shaped whereby the hose will ride across the surface

3 of the water easily and rapidly without submerging.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12 ~~{or Claim 13}~~, including the
2 step of interposing one or more further lengths of open-ended hose between the first and second
3 hose lengths thus to extend the length of the system.

1 15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the or each further length of
2 standard hose is attached to one of the first and second hose lengths after inflation thereof.

1 16. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein at least one angular connector is
2 attached between the respective hose lengths to form an angular or curved boom capable of
3 containing floating objects or substances.

1 17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~{any one of Claims 12 to 16}~~ Claim 12,
2 wherein the coupled hose lengths are inflated to a pressure in the range of 2 to 3.5 bar.